

OBITUARY.

SIR JOHN DENIS MACDONALD, K.C.B.,

F.R.S., M.D. St. And., M.R.C.S. Eng., R.N.,

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF HOSPITALS AND FLEETS.

FULL of years and honours, there passed away at Southsea on February 7th Sir John Denis Macdonald, R.N. Son of James Macdonald, artist and art critic, he was born at Cork in 1826 and educated at Cork and King's College, London. He obtained the diploma of M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1849, and entered the medical branch of the Royal Navy in August, 1849. He had a strong bent towards natural history, and was in due course appointed to H.M.S. *Herald*, a surveying ship in the Pacific; here his scientific knowledge and inherited artistic capacity stood him in good stead. His brilliant work, principally with the microscope, on the deposits brought up by the sounding-lead, dredge, and towing net caused him to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1859, at the early age of 33, and in July of the same year he was promoted to the rank of Staff Surgeon. In 1862 Macdonald was presented with the Macdonagh Brisbane Medal by the Royal Society of Edinburgh; in 1866 promotion to the rank of Fleet Surgeon was awarded, and in 1867 he qualified as M.D. St. Andrews.

Between 1870 and 1880 Sir John Macdonald was Professor of Naval Hygiene at the Army Medical School at Netley, the naval surgeons on entry undergoing a course of training there with the candidates for the Army and Indian medical services. Associated with the brilliant staff then serving at Netley—Parkes, de Chaumont, Macleod, Longmore, and Altken—Macdonald soon made his mark, and it is through his teaching at Netley that he was principally known to so many generations of naval medical officers. In 1880 came the parting of the ways. It was decided to form a school for the preliminary training of medical officers at Haslar, and to the great regret of many the naval surgeons were withdrawn from the Netley course, and Macdonald's career as a teacher was over. He had already been promoted to the rank of Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets in 1875, and in 1880 was promoted to the rank of Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets. From 1883 to 1886 he was in charge of the Royal Naval Hospital at Plymouth, retiring from the service on May 24th, 1886.

Sir John Macdonald was not a very voluminous writer, but he was the author of the *Analogy of Sound and Colour*, the *Microscopical Examination of Drinking Water*, and the *Outlines of Naval Hygiene*, which ran through two editions. He also contributed the article on yellow fever to Reynolds's *System of Medicine*.

In 1902, as a Coronation honour, he was appointed a K.C.B., Military Division, an honour that, although somewhat tardily granted, was much appreciated by the members of the naval medical service.

ANTHONY ROCHE, M.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,

PROFESSOR OF MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND HYGIENE, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL, DUBLIN.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. Anthony Roche, which took place at Dublin on January 29th, from pneumonia. Dr. Roche had been for many years Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and Hygiene in the Catholic University School of Medicine, and was well known as an enthusiastic worker in the cause of public health. He had ample scope in Dublin, and he lost no opportunity of impressing upon the public the importance of improved hygienic conditions. He was an excellent teacher, and was fully appreciated by his pupils. He was one of the Examiners in Sanitary Science in the Royal University, and he had been reappointed to this office on many occasions. The Medical Faculty of his college have passed a resolution of condolence, in which they say:

An old student of the school, whose career was marked by the highest distinctions in all his classes, he has filled the Chair of Hygiene and Medical Jurisprudence in a manner to merit professional and public respect, and to earn the gratitude of the pupils, in whom he inspired a thorough devotion to scientific progress. The Faculty mourn the untimely demise of an honourable colleague, a professor of exceptional ability, a warm-hearted friend, and a strenuous advocate of the educational claims of the Irish people. They tender to his bereaved family a sincere expression of condolence in their affliction.

By the death of Mr. CHARLES A. AIKIN on February 11th, at Llandrillo, Merionethshire, the profession has lost one of its oldest and most esteemed members. He was born in 1821, and was the only son of Charles R. Aikin, M.R.C.S., who practised in London. Mr. C. A. Aikin was educated at University College School, and received his professional training at Guy's Hospital, becoming M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1843, and obtaining the Fellowship of the College of Surgeons in 1858. He married early in life, started work in South Paddington, and rapidly acquired a very extensive West End practice, from which he retired about sixteen or seventeen years ago. He subsequently resided for a few years near Holland Park, W., and passed the remaining years of his life in failing health at his sons' residence, near Llandrillo. Mrs. Aikin, their three sons, and a daughter survive him.

WE have to record the death of Mr. RICHARD LUSCOMBE ELLIOT, which occurred on January 31st. He received his medical education at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and obtained the diploma of M.R.C.S. in 1862 and of L.R.C.P. in 1863. He was at one time private physician to Lord Harewood, but in 1875 experienced an attack of paralysis which permanently disabled him from practice. For over a quarter of a century he resided at Treillian, Kingsbridge, the home of his parents, but some ten years ago removed to Paignton where his death occurred. Mr. Elliot, although unable to practise, took a great interest in local affairs to the discussion of which he frequently contributed by his pen.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY MANAGEMENT.

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENTS UNDER THE METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.

AT the meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board on February 1st the Hospital Committee brought up a report on an application jointly signed by the several medical superintendents in the hospitals service for an increase in their remuneration. The salary assigned at present commences at £400 per annum rising by annual increments of £25 to a maximum of £700 per annum with unfurnished house or furnished apartments, washing, fire, and light. The medical superintendents pointed out that their responsibility and work had increased in recent years, and contrasted the salary of the medical superintendents of the fever hospitals with that of the imbecile asylums, £600 a year rising by annual increments of £50 to £800, with unfurnished house, etc. The Committee recognized that in recent years the work of the hospitals had grown both in volume and importance, and pointed out that the proportion of notified cases admitted to hospitals had increased from 65.5 per cent. in 1898 to 84 per cent. in 1906, and expressed the opinion that this was mainly due to the confidence the public had in the efficiency of the Board's arrangements for the care of the infectious sick. To maintain the Board's work at the highest point of efficiency demanded unfailing zeal and constant vigilance on the part of the chief officers. Moreover, greater calls had been made upon them by the Hospitals Committee for important reports and returns on subjects connected with hospital management and administration. The medical superintendents were constant in their endeavour to co-operate with the Board in carrying out the important duties laid upon them. Their responsibilities were heavy, and their residence in an infectious hospital involved certain social disadvantages and many educational difficulties with regard to their children. The Committee having considered the matter in all its aspects expressed its conclusions in the following terms: (a) That the minimum salary of a medical superintendent is too low; (b) that seeing that it takes twelve years, as against four years in the Board's asylum service, for a medical superintendent in the hospitals service to reach his maximum, the rate of increment should be accelerated; and (c) that the maximum does not adequately represent the value to the Board of a medical superintendent of experience. The Committee therefore recommended the following scale of remuneration and emoluments:—Salary: (i) Commencing at £500 per annum and rising by four annual increments of £25 to £600 per annum and thence by two further annual increments of £50 to £700 per annum; and (ii) after the expiration of ten completed years of service as a medical superintendent to rise from £700 per annum by £50 annually to a maximum of £800 per annum. (iii) The annual increments to date from March 26th of each year. Emoluments: Unfurnished house (or furnished apartments) and washing.

Under the standing orders of the Board the consideration of the report was deferred.

Recommendations (i) and (ii) were adopted at the meeting of the Board on February 15th.